THE GENESEE FARMER.

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THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1836.

Notes of our Travels.

On one road, the force of the District had been called out, and they were filling up the mud-holes with round stones, some of them nearly as big as a man's head. On our return we found them covered up with loose sand. Now we are willing to say, that most of these stones will be nuisances as long as they lie there. Before one month shall have passed, the wheels of heavy wagons will cut through the soft sand, and their loads will be jolted over them while the horses are strained and jerked about. Large stones can never be used to any advantage, unless they be covered up so deep that the wheels never reach them; and holes of such depth, never ought to occur in a district capable of keeping the roads in decent repair.

The influence of the bad habits acquired by our early settlers in regard to mending roads, are visible in all parts of the country. The same *want of reflection* generally, though not universally, prevails; but these exceptions, or departures from old customs, have given us much pleasure. In some places, the value of gravel is becoming known. Had this knowledge however, extended to the district which we lately traversed, neither stones nor sand, would have been hauled in; for we observed a bank of gravel very conveniently situated at the road side. To *observe* and to *think*, is as much the duty of intelligent beings, as to *labor*.

We met, and traveled some miles in company with, a very respectable and intelligent farmer from Vermont, who gave us some account of the insect which has lately proved so destructive to the crops of wheat in that quarter. For a description of the fly, and its offspring the worm, we refer to page 324 of our last volume; but as some of both our *western* and *southern* farmers believe they are already acquainted with this insect, we are authorized to state that these worms do *not* appear among grain which has been threshed and winnowed,—consequently it is a different creature from that which rolls down the fanning mill along with the wheat.

In regard to the action of quicklime on these pests, our informant considers it a doubtful remedy,—at least it had proved inefficacious in various instances, though some farmers thought it had been useful. Without doubt that, and all other remedies, should be rightly timed. He further said that they are much less destructive in some years than in others; and that some good crops have been lately had on farms where formerly the grain was nearly destroyed. It is probable that the insect-enemies of this depredator will hereafter restrain its ravages. Some of our readers will recollect the alarm occasioned by the first appearance of the Hessian Fly; and we may take courage from the checks which this devourer has since found.

We observed piles of flax in several places, which had been mowed or cradled, threshed, and then thrown out like straw to rot. It was evidently grown exclusively for the seed. We have not ascertained whether this branch of husbandry is increasing in the country, or not; but we have learned some particulars which may be worth recording. Much less seed is required when the crop is solely designed for this purpose, three pecks being deemed sufficient. In one instance about 15 bushels to the acre were obtained, which at the prices lately given, would fall but little short of twenty dollars.

It would gratify us to receive more information on this subject; and if any of our readers should write to us on this point, we should like to know if flax, as in the olden time, is not still worth raising? and how a crop for the double purpose of both flax and seed, would compare with a crop wholly cultivated for seed?

Throughout that part of our district which is best adapted to wheat, the soil is generally dry enough in dry seasons without draining, except the swales, which are naturally the richest parts of the field; but there is much land besides the swales, in wet seasons, from which the farmer would derive greater profits if he would be at the expense of both under-draining and furrow-draining. This will be evident to any person who will observe the fine crops on our hilly or gravelly land, although the soil is naturally inferior in quality. In truth, a good farmer who is careful not to exhaust his land by hard cropping, cultivating clover in rotation, and applying the manures within his reach,—can make more money from a second rate soil, drained by the hand of nature, than he can from first rate land which occasionally retains too much water from the melting of snows, or from long-continued rains in summer.

Damage from excessive moisture also often extends to our pastures; for though most of our grasses are less impatient of wet than grain, and succeed well in meadows; yet the feet of heavy cattle poach the soil, so that when dry weather returns, the effects of drouth are injuriously felt. Let us then endeavor to counteract by our industry and skill, every defect which naturally belongs to the land on which our lots are cast; and while one farmer is engaged in LIMING to neutralize the sourness of his soil, to render it more easily permeable, more salubrious and more fertile,—let another not forget that all water which soaks the soil for more than a few hours at a time, is injurious.

We observed on some farms, that furrows had been drawn to lead off the water, the plough having passed a second time nearly in the same track, but the loose earth was turned out on the opposite side. Nothing more was done. This kind of furrow-draining is very ineffectual; and water enough will be retained among the loose earth in winter and spring, to destroy most of the wheat. It has however, another disadvantage: The mold from the furrow is laid in a ridge, and the water from the adjoining ground cannot flow freely into the drain. To do the business neatly, and thoroughly, either the shovel should be employed to make the bottom smooth, or a heavy block of wood or stone should be drawn along it; and instead of a ridge such as the plough leaves, the ground should be flattened down and a part thrown back, so that the water may descend into the ditch without obstruction.

The Mountain Ash* is deservedly admired for its clusters of white flowers in spring, its fine foliage in summer, but more especially for its spendid fruit in autumn; yet it is very subject to injury, the nature of which ought to be better known. At one place we noticed a fine large shrub of this family, with all its leaves withered. This loss was occasioned by *the borer*, which begins to work near the ground; but unlike the Peach Worm, it perforates the solid wood; and where a dozen or more are engaged at once, as we have repeatedly observed,—most of the vessels in the alburnum are cut off, the sap is prevented from ascending, and the tree dies.

Now all this may be prevented by a little timely attention. Examine the stem of the tree near the ground every spring as soon as warm weather commences, scraping away the soil for an inch or so in depth; and if any filth, such as the peach worm emits, is visible,—cut *in* with a pruning knife but *not across* the bark, if it be possible to avoid it. Our observations have induced us to believe that while the borer is small, he prefers keeping near the bark; but if he remains undisturbed through the summer, or for a longer period, a process which the knife is not able to accomplish, may become necessary. This occurs when he has cut so far into the wood that he cannot be followed in this way without serious damage to the tree. A piece of fine wire is then to be employed. It should be *fine* in order to be flexible enough to follow the windings of his hole, and *barbed* to draw him from his retreat. If it be well managed, the operator will soon see on its point, a whitish worm, often an inch in length, and soft in every part but his head which is hard enough to work his way in any direction. The injured part of the tree, as soon as the job is completed, should be coated with clay, or some suitable plaster to prevent it from drying.

Our present impressions are, that an examination once a month through the warm season, is all that can be necessary when the tree is not previously infested. When the worms are small, they can be taken out with great facility; but

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* By this name we designate various species of *Sorbus*.

the difficulty increases with their age and the extent of their depredations. If the tree is much infested, it would be prudent to examine it as often as once a week till the whole brood is removed,—for commonly in such cases, a part will escape us, the first or even the second time.

The apple tree and the quince tree are in equal danger from this depredator; but so far we have found no instance of his attacking the pear tree; and if the Mountain Ash would do well on this stock, it might very conveniently be placed out of all peril on this score. Our experiments in this line however, have not entirely answered our wishes. One graft of the European Mountain Ash or Roan tree, *took* well on a pear, but it is dwarfish, and scarcely shows any disposition to be otherwise, though it appears healthy. Some other *variety* of the pear might do better.

The value of Apples and Peaches as food for live stock, more especially for swine, appears not to be so generally understood as it ought to be. The cutting down of orchards in whole or in part, continues; but the apple tree in this country is a regular bearer; and its fruit, whether sweet or sour, may very profitably supply the place of Indian Corn or Barley. Within a few days past, we have seen hogs that have had nothing but swill and the fruit that fell from the trees,—so fat that we do not believe they could raise a trot except in the greatest extremity.

Short Hints on Manures, and their Comparative Value.

A few brief remarks on the different kinds of manure, their comparative value, and peculiar adaptation, may perhaps be acceptable to our readers, by laying before them at one view some of the chief facts which are contained in many extended articles.

Stable and farm-yard manure.—This may be applied with great advantage to all kinds of soils, the quantities varying with the previous fertility and the kind of crop intended to be raised. It should in all cases be applied with lime, or on land that has been limed. On sour and thin light soils, lime with it is absolutely necessary. It may be applied almost without limit to all crops where leaves and stalks are the chief product; but where seed is the intended crop, more caution is required in using it. Colman says, "A good farmer should look upon manure as money which he may place at compound interest, the payment of which he is sure." No pains should be spared to collect and save it. All that can be obtained from stables and cattle yards should be preserved and applied. Straw and other litter should be used as plentifully as can be, in order to absorb and retain the liquid parts and increase the bulk, but without rendering the mass too dry. Open cattle yards should be made lowest towards the middle, in order to prevent the juices from being carried off by rains, and care should be taken that no water may run upon it from higher adjoining ground. The yard should therefore be so situated that the ground may descend every way from it; or else an open drain should run round it to prevent the water flowing into it in time of showers.

This kind of manure should be applied to the soil where possible in the earliest stages of fermentation. If allowed to ferment, fifty per cent. of its value will be lost. For this reason, when drawn upon the ground it should be ploughed in immediately; or if this cannot be done, it should be left in heaps so small as to prevent fermentation from going on. Such heaps will be most convenient for spreading. The only case in which manure is best when applied after it has fermented, is where immediate and intimate admixture with the soil is required, as for some garden crops. When it is left to ferment in a heap for this purpose, the volatile parts which are those commonly lost, may be preserved by covering the heap a few inches thick with muck or marsh mud, (rich soil will do,) and this with a thin coat, say half an inch, of lime. This will absorb and retain the vapor, and leave the quantity of fermented manure as great as if this care was not taken.

Clover, and other green crops.—Ploughing in crops while in a growing state, has been productive of the greatest benefit, particularly on light and friable soils. Lorrain states that he purchased an exhausted farm in Pennsylvania, and by pursuing this mode of renovating, he so improved it that in a very few years he more than quadrupled his crops. Many instances of similar success have occurred in our own state. This method of manuring is not so well adapted to heavy soils, unless the ploughing in can be done while the ground is dry, that the decomposition may not be retarded. Clover, peas, and beans are the best crops for this purpose; but as buckwheat is easily raised, and a heavy growth soon obtained, it has been found very advantageous. They should be turned in either at or immediately after the most luxuriant stages of growth, in order that their decomposition may be more complete.

The chief economy of this mode of manuring is, that it saves drawing and spreading, and the labor of preparation, which in other sorts of manure is always considerable. The only additional expense is in the use of the land, and in sowing the crop. Where land is cheap, and farm-yard manure not easily obtained, it possesses advantages over every other mode practiced.

Greensward, or decayed roots of grass.—This possesses the advantages peculiar to those green crops, though not in so great a degree. Like most other manures of which the value depends on fermentation, a great part of its fertilizing part is wasted unless it ferments in the soil; the sod should therefore not be turned up to the air after it has been inverted, until thorough decomposition has taken place, which will require at least one season.

Muck and marsh mud consists chiefly of decayed vegetable matter, and may be applied with advantage to every soil where such matter is not already abundant. Lime should be applied with it.

Straw and leaves, are used to best advantage when mixed with stable and barn-yard dung, which in its action upon them, breaks their fiber and reduces them to a proper state to become mixed with the soil; while they in turn absorb the enriching juices, and prevent their wasting.

Weeds, if removed from their place of growth while in a green and succulent state, and piled in a heap, will ferment and form excellent manure. If left to become mature, their seeds will be scattered, and their value as manure decreased many fold. Pastures are frequently permitted to become overrun with mulleins and thistles, and if instead of suffering them to become ripe, they were cut while green, and raked with a horse rake in heaps, it would be a great saving on every hand.

Charcoal absorbs many times its own bulk of most of the different gases, and hence may yield a great supply of nourishment to plants. Another profitable use for it is as a surface dressing for early crops, and those which require warmth of soil, as it absorbs very freely the heating rays of the sun.

Bones, broken or pulverized, horn shavings, waste locks of wool, hair, &c. all possess very fertilizing powers. Experiments with these substances in this country have been comparatively limited. In an experiment of John R. Watson of Perth Amboy with bone dust, who applied it to corn in the drill at the rate of sixteen bushels to the acre, it exceeded in its effects high manuring with yard dung or with fish. Bones, broken fine, are applied with great effect to grass lands. In Scotland, where bone manure is much used, it is highly esteemed as manure, and has commanded a price of three shillings and sixpence sterling per bushel. It is said to be best for light and dry soils, and not of great value upon clays and heavy loams; yet J. R. Watson states that he used it both on light and heavy loams without any perceptible difference in its effects. On thin sand lands it is said to be invaluable. It does not in general produce much effect the first year unless it has been fermented before application to the soil; this process is effected by mixing it in a heap with ashes, and moistening the whole with water. The quantity applied in ordinary cases should not be greater than from twenty to forty bushels per acre; as in other manures however, a much greater quantity than otherwise may be used where the intended crop is to be leaves and stalks and not seed. Horn shavings, refuse wool, &c. possess a a fertilizing power little if any inferior to that of bones. It is the small quantity needed to produce a given effect, that renders manures of this class so remarkable; they appear to possess an enriching effect within a small compass, many times greater than the same quantity of farm-yard dung.

Lime and marl.—These may be applied with great advantage to all soils which do not effervesce with acids. On worn out sandy land which has become sour, (which is indicated by the growth of sorrel, scrub pines, or broom grass,) they operate like magic; by their use on such lands in Virginia, they have speedily been converted from barrenness to fertility. But there are few soils which may not be greatly benefitted by them. A correspondent of the Poughkeepsie Telegraph of last year, sowed twenty-five bushels of lime to the acre, and harrowed it in with wheat; it had but little effect on the first year's crop, but the second year the clover which was sowed among the wheat grew much larger on the limed ground, and endured the drouth better, than on the unlimed; the third year it was ploughed and planted with corn; when this was half grown the difference produced

by the lime was very perceptible, by the stalks and leaves being larger and a very dark green, and the crop was one third greater in consequence. Many other experiments might be mentioned where similar results were produced. Lime should always be present where barn-yard manure is applied, as it performs a most important office in fixing the volatile parts of such manure until they are immediately wanted by plants during their growth. It is believed that by its operation in this way the most important improvement may be made in the culture of wheat, as it tends to prevent too great a growth of straw, and to promote a growth of seed, so that a more copious application of manure is admissible. The quantity of lime to be applied must vary with the fertility of the land; the poorer the land, the less lime it will bear. Forty or fifty bushels to the acre would in common cases be enough to begin with. It is of little consequence whether the lime is fresh slacked, or old, when it is appled. Hot or magnesian lime must be applied with greater caution and in smaller quantities than common lime; it is rendered mild most easily by spreading it upon grass land a year or two before breaking up the sod. Tennant found by experiment that thirty or forty grains of pure lime did not retard the growth of seeds more than three or four grains of calcined magnesia. Shell marl operates in precisely the same way as old lime.

Ashes, soap suds, &c. produce a good effect, the potash they contain apparently performing the same office as lime.

Foreign Agriculture.

All accounts from abroad agree in representing the amount of surplus grain on hand in the principal countries of Europe as immense. In the north of Germany on the Baltic, in Holland and Belgium, in France, Spain, Italy, and the countries bordering on the Mediterranean, in the south of Russia bordering on the Black Sea, the crops for the last two or three years have been such as to leave a large quantity for export, after supplying the demand for home consumption. These countries have for many years furnished large supplies of bread stuffs to England, which though very fruitful in wheat and barley, has rarely produced enough to supply her immense population engaged in manufactures, and her army and navy.

The countries we have mentioned, cannot be considered more favorable to the production of wheat than our own, and several circumstances may be pointed out that have contributed to the present accumulation of that article. The first of these causes is the state of profound peace, which, with the exception of Spain, reigns over the whole of Europe. The consequence is, that the multitudes of armed men have turned their swords into plough shares, and are employing themselves in agriculture, instead of the murder of mankind; and it is well known that much less is required to support a hundred thousand men in the peaceful pursuits of home, than in the field. Another cause is in the fact, that the greater part of the field labor in the countries of continental Europe, is performed by females. In some of them such has been always the case; in others, as in France, it is the natural result of the conscription and the constant drain of men for the wars in which that country was involved from 1792 to 1814. A third cause is found in the ease with which life in the south of France, Spain, and Italy, is supported. In these countries there is not one-fourth of the meat and bread consumed by the same amount of population, that there is in England, and the north of Europe, or with us. Their genial climate enables them to entirely dispense with many things here considered indispensable; fruit, of various kinds, and no part of the world produces finer or more durable varieties, constitutes their principal food for a large part of the year; and hence, when a crop of wheat is raised, the most of it can be spared for exportation.

The causes we have mentioned will doubtless continue to operate, so long as Europe shall remain at peace; and in France, the improvement of the methods and the profits of agriculture are increasing with a rapidity elsewhere unrivaled. France has been favored with a number of literary men, who have not thought it beneath them to devote their great learning and talents to the promotion of agriculture, and the government has not hesitated to second their investigations and efforts in the most praiseworthy manner. Of these men it is sufficient to mention Chaptal and Cuvier. The conseqence has been, that France, in the production of the necessaries or the luxuries of life, is far ahead of any country in Europe, England excepted; and we some doubt whether even this exception would be just.

While the present causes which have contributed to throw such an amount of labor into the agricultural department in Europe, shall remain operative, American farmers, notwithstanding the protecting duty of twenty cents per bushel, will find all their exertions necessary to retain their ascendency in our home markets; and that large quantities will find their way hither the present season, in consequence of present high prices, there can be no doubt. That such an event is possible and probable we are pleased to believe,—the balance of trade will be preserved, and the oppression of the unfortunate poor, which might otherwise have taken place, be rendered impossible.

In most of the European countries, the methods of farming are most defective, and were not labor so plentiful, their fields would hardly repay the expense of cultivation. In that admirable work, "A Year in Spain. By a young American,"—we find the following description of the manner in which threshing is performed in that country. He was in the vicinity of Grenada, in the time of wheat harvest, when he says: "I abandoned my donkey to follow the progress of the caravan alone, and turned aside to a spot where a group were busy in threshing out the grain. Touching my hat, and saluting them after the fashion of the country, I paused awhile to observe their labors. A circle about fifty feet in diameter, had been cleared in the center of the field, and trodden smooth by horses. Here the sheaves were unbound, and five or six horses, which had been unshod for the purpose, and tied together by the heads, were led over the grain; the inner one being fastened to a stake in the center of the circle, of which they contined to make the circuit until the grain was separated, when it was afterwards cleaned from the chaff by throwing it from heap to heap, under the action of a breeze. The straw, after the grain is removed, is once more thrown into the circle, and the horses, being attached to a species of sled, which rests upon a great number of iron runners, are driven round as before by a man who sits upon the sled, until the straw is cut into pieces. This straw is of universal use in Spain as fodder, and with beans and barley, forms the chief nourishment of horses, mules, and asses."

From the total absence of any machinery for cleaning grain in the country, it is probable the Spaniards have the same horror of all innovations, attributed by Scott to his old woman in one of the Tales of my Landlord, who charged as a capital crime upon one of the innovators on ancient usages, "that he had manufactured wind for his own use, instead of waiting until it pleased the Lord to send it upon the sheeling hill." G.

Silk from the Native Mulberry.

We have received a specimen of beautiful white silk, from a friend at Flushing, Ohio. He says:

"I enclose a specimen of sewing silk, made in this county by Martha Leeke, who has this season commenced the silk business on a small scale by way of experiment. The specimen is made from our native leaf. The article will show whether the material is good, and the attempt successful."

The same writer says: "Our harvest is over, and generally well got in; the wheat about an average crop, oats and corn good, grass a heavy crop, and fruit plentiful."

☞ We thank our friend at Stockton for his Table of the Weather, though it is not complete enough to render its publication useful.

Importation of African Asses.—Five large African male asses, of a nearly milk white color, were on Saturday landed from the brig Commaquid, which arrived here on Friday from Gibraltar. These animals are altogether unlike in appearance to the English ass or donkey, one of which may be occasionally seen here, and which is a diminutive little animal, and of very little use as a beast of burthen. The African ass is, on the contrary, as large as a middle sized horse, and has been, as far back as the days of scripture, an animal much prized for its useful qualities in Asia and Africa. The present importation, although there are probably asses enough already in the country, is likely to prove a valuable acquisition.—*Journal of Commerce.*

Cure for the Garget in Cows.—Cows after ceasing to be milked are very apt to suffer from an induration of the glands of the udder, and it not unfrequently happens that the same effect is produced by negligent milking. If a cow be not stripped at each time, she will utimately go dry, and the most serious consequences result to the animal from the effects of this neglect of the dairy maid. Whenever the udder becomes inflamed and hardened from either of these causes, let a linament be composed of camphor and blue ointment, and the udder be well abrogated therewith, and should a feverish condition of the animal ensue, a dose of salts, say 3 or 4 ounces at a time, should be exhibited for 3 or 4 days in succession.—*Far. & Gar.*

The wheat crop in England, Ireland and Scotland is very abundant.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Education of the Farmer.

BY X.

Mr. Tucker—There is one subject which I have long been considering, and which, it seems to me, commends itself to the serious and candid attention of every one with whom it is connected. It is the education of the farmer—that is, the whole training of the child from infancy to maturity, and the instruction preparatory to the duties of his calling.

I have perused the pages of the Farmer with pleasure, as they have from time to time given instruction upon the various branches of husbandry; but at the same time I have with equal regret observed the want of scarcely any instruction, or even advice, with reference to mental and moral culture. It may be thonght by some, that the Farmer does not include these among the objects which it has in view. But why does it not? Is not the subject of intellectual and moral improvement closely connected with the highest happiness of every person, whatever may be his calling in life? Are not its interests closely interwoven with the present and eternal welfare of every human being? Do not the exalted ends which it is calculated to gain call loudly upon every one to give it a decided attention? Doubtless all will admit that it is a subject of vital importance; but some may inquire, why you would introduce it into an agricultural publication. There is a satisfactory reason in my mind, why the subject of education should have a place in such a paper, *so far as it is in the least connected with the occupation of the patrons of that paper.* There, as it were, it will be detached by itself—it will stand out in a conspicuous situation, and will appeal home individually to all under whose notice it shall fall, disencumbered of every thing of a similar nature, but which inclines to another profession. Our attention will be called to it separately, as connected with a particular pursuit, and many of the hindrances to success which must be encountered when the same subject is presented under different circumstances, will by this course be prevented. There is a peculiar fitness in having important subjects presented before our minds unaccompanied by any thing which is not coherent with the object in view. Look at our public schools and colleges. There is the same course of education prescribed for the lawyer, the physician, the schoolmaster, the farmer. It is true, there are a great many things which ought to be learned in common, but is there not a peculiar fitness and propriety in having, at least in part, a separate course prescribed, whose whole bearing shall be directed towards the particular profession for which it was designed. The attention of some men engaged in the cause of education, particularly of common school education, has of late been called to this interesting subject, (that of recommending a course of instruction adapted to the future wants of the learner,) and would that there were a deeper interest felt in its behalf throughout our land.

I wish through the columns of your paper to throw out a few hints respecting the education of the farmer, not as feeling myself capable of doing justice to the subject, but hoping that it may awaken an interest in some one who will favor us with articles from an abler pen. I have heretofore noticed an occasional glance at it from the pen of some of your correspondents, but no person, with his eyes properly opened, will deny that the subject is very much neglected. It must pain the heart of every careful observer to see the lamentable deficiency in the qualifications of the farming community. I mean the qualifications of the mind. Not but what we have a number of able men, men of talents, who are farmers, but there is a neglect, a deplorable neglect, existing generally throughout this class of people, in respect to their intellectual interests. It is not contended that the farmer should be liberally educated, in the strict sense of that phrase, in order properly to discharge the duties of his occupation, but that he should know no more than just enough to plough and sow his fields, reap his crops, and make money, is folly in the extreme. (Yet it requires more knowledge to do even this as it ought to be done than many imagine.) For what was mind given to man for, if it was not to be trained and cultivated? Why were we made intellectual beings? The farmer, no more than any other person, should be debarred the pleasure to be taken from a well cultivated mind. Why should he remain in ignorance all his days, even of those very branches of knowledge which are so nearly connected with his occupation, such as chemistry, botany, geology, &c.? Is it because he does not need them, as the illiterate may pretend? The knowledge which they impart may be brought into constant practice every day in the year. When a farmer prepares a piece of ground to put in a crop, he ought to know whether the soil is congenial to that crop; he ought to learn previously of what the soil is formed, and what is the nature of the ingredients. Unless he have this knowledge, and know when and where to sow his crops, he will waste his efforts year after year in fruitless experiment. There are many of this last stamp, and they are the very men who cry out against education for the farmer. Wrapped up in their own conceit, they will not listen to the voice of instruction, and so live to the close of their lives, nearly, if not quite, as ignorant as when they commenced their course.

I apprehend that the real condition of our farmers in regard to this subject is not very extensively known. Education is indeed in a low state among them—there are but few, in comparison with the great mass, who pay any attention to it. And here it may seem a query, why our farmers as a class are of no better information, considering the numerous advantages our country offers for the attainment of knowledge. Public schools have been brought to our very doors, and yet how many who are *abundantly able* still turn from them. It is no privilege to them that knowledge is so cheap, and they seem to treat with perfect indifference this momentous subject. There is a reason for this inaction, and a lamentable one too. Hitherto a great mistake has prevailed upon this subject. It was thought by our fathers, at least to a considerable extent, that a very deficient education would answer in all cases for the farmer. It appeared to them that the duties of his profession did not call for the exercise of the mind, and that therefore the bestowment of time and money upon its cultivation was entirely thrown away. *They* were taught to think so, and they taught their children to think so. And hence we may account for the erroneous opinions which at the present day prevail upon this sbbject.

But the farmer has other and higher obligations resting upon him than the tilling of the ground. He has mind to train, he has his offspring to teach, and he has public duties to perform. And should he not be prepared for all this? How can he, and be brought up in that neglected course which hundreds of able farmers are now taking with their children? We would ask them, ought not light to be thrown upon this subject? Ought not those who are slumbering on in the utter neglect of their intellectual interests, taking no thought only for their bodies, to be waked up, that the mind may receive that attention which is its due, and experience that culture which will prepare the man for his duties in this life, that thus his *immortal part* may be fitted to shine with increasing splendor in that world beyond the grave?

It is not to be expected that a thorough lustration of the erroneous opinions which have gained prevalence upon this subject can be effected instantaneously. They have long held dominion, and it will take some time to make people see the right way and walk in it.

We would not say that the cause of education among our farmers is generally declining; but we would say that little is doing, and the interest felt in the cause in some parts scarcely perceptibly increasing. The wants of our common schools, as described by those who have gone through our country and made an examination into their condition, give a woful picture of the state of a certain class of inhabitants, and predict the evil consequences to the welfare of our Republic, if a renovation do not soon take place. Now the farming class makes up the great body which sustains these schools. The children of this class are the ones that principally fill our district school houses. And it need not be said that the present course of instruction there given is very poorly calculated to qualify them for their future duties.

To show the benefit which a large portion of inhabitants receive from these schools, we will introduce one example. Here is a farmer who sends his children to a common school through the winter season. We will say nothing about the teacher's doing his duty. The father knows that at the usual hour in the morning his boys are prepared and sent off to school. He probably does not see them again till night, when they are fixing their skates, or mending their sled, intending to get permission to spend the evening in play. The next day they go through with the same routine of business, and the winter passes away without the father's knowing hardly what they have been studying. He may perhaps inquire at the close of the school concerning their progress, and find that his children have made little or no advancement. Then he will complain bitterly of the teacher, and tell of the great pains he has taken to place in the hands of his children the means of education. He even did not take them out of school all

winter long, and here they are, at the expiration of a four or five months' term, no better off than when they commenced." Now this is precisely the management of hundreds of parents,—they take no more interest in the school than this. What more could they expect of their children while they are so indifferent, and feel no more interested themselves?

We will now suppose that the same man, at the commencement of the school, had called his boys around him, and told them what he was going to do: "The hurrying time of the year is past, and winter is about setting in. There is a long season of leisure before you. We have been making efforts for a good school, and we trust not in vain. Now I am going to send you as soon as it commences—you shall have just such books as you need, and you shall not be called away one single day. Moreover, my evenings or a proportion of them, shall be devoted to your instruction, and I will spare no pains which can conduce to your advancement in your studies." And let them see that his heart is on their welfare and highest good, and that he feels interested in their prosperity, and that he seeks in good earnest the improvement of their minds. When they have come home from school in the evening, he will gather them around him and have them tell him what they have learned during the day. He will ask such questions as he deems suited to the little circle, and give them the same privilege. He will then bring forward some appropriate reading-book that he has newly purchased, which is calculated to interest both the oldest and the youngest, and have them take turns in reading. Such an evening's entertainment cannot fail of being interesting to their youthful minds. And it will surprise the father to see with what alacrity and delight they will enter upon the next evening's duties. If he should pursue this course with his children, they would not, after school, be asking to go *a skating*, or *sliding down hill*—they would love their own firesides and their books.

It is true, the teacher has *his* duties to perform, but after all, the great secret of a child's advancement in knowledge that only attends a district school, lies in the degree of interest the parent takes in his intellectual progress. Let the parent be indifferent to his prosperity, and the child will soon exhibit a spirit of negligence, which will be ruinous to every effort of improvement made on the part of the teacher. The child *should* be noticed and encouraged at home, and made to feel not only the importance of *going to school*, but the great necessity of the cultivation of the mind, and the improvement of the understanding, which may be done by the little familiar circles above spoken of. For it is very easy for children, when neglected in this great business by their parents, to acquire those habits of inattention and carelessness about the interests of the mind, which they can never outgrow.

When we shall look at the matter in its true light, and weigh all the important considerations with that interest which they justly demand, we shall see that a much better education is needed among the farming community than is now generally received. Whether or not husbandry has risen as near a state of perfection as it did in old Roman times, we find but few who are able, like Cincinnatus, to hold the plough or guide the affairs of the nation.

While we should not forget where the wealth of our nation lays, whence we have gained our present standing and acquired such a name for *prosperity*, we should remember what great body of people must sustain this Republic in its onward march to power and influence; and nothing can more surely predict our fall and utter ruin, than a general prevalence of ignorance throughout the class of common people. The diffusion of useful knowledge among all classes in our nation, is certainly the greatest safeguard to our republican institutions. And where such a large portion of the population are farmers who compose the most powerful and influential class of people in the nation in a political point of view, ought they not to take special pains to raise the standard of intellectual and moral worth among their ranks, to spread intelligence far and wide, until every person shall possess a degree of knowledge which will enable him to discharge the duties of his occupation with honor to himself and profit to his country?

We hope that the erroneous opinion that education is not needed to make the farmer, will soon be banished forever from the earth, and that by the introduction of correct opinions, carried out in practice, the farmer's calling will become, as it may, the most honorable, and command the most respect of any in our land. The privileges of education are daily increasing, and the expense in procuring it lessening; and it is time that farmers should improve the opportunities they now have of giving their sons a proper education while in the season of youth. Youth is the time, and did we realize how many are now every day mourning over the misimprovement of this most important period of life, the perfect disregard of the voice of wisdom heard on every side of them, and the irrecoverable loss they have sustained, which will cause them grief and pain to the last hour of their lives, we might possibly be aroused to a sense of our duty.

Suppose here is a community of farmers who have taken pains to educate their children, and continually to place before them incentives to the road to knowledge and good morals, what a prosperous and promising society will soon be seen, whose influence, as far as it shall have any communication, will be of that salutary kind which a right education always exerts.

A little time and money properly spent in the intellectual improvement of a lovely boy, between the ages of twelve and sixteen, are *not* lost. He is then in the "vigor of youth," possessed of activity of mind, and if he is directed in the right course, will grow up to honor and respectability. And do parents think it irksome to pay this attention to the cultivation of his mind? No—it is a

> "Delightful task, to rear the tender thought,
> And teach the young idea how to shoot;
> To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
> To breathe th' enlivening spirit, and to fix
> The generous purpose in the glowing breast."

It will prepare him most admirably to prosecute the way to knowledge with ardor of mind and fervor of spirit in his future life. He will receive an impulse in his early days which will not be momentary and vanishing, but will increase with the lapse of time; and his virtues and prosperous course in after life will doubly compensate the father for the pains, time, and money, bestowed upon his education.

On the contrary, let the youth grow up neglecting and neglected, and the sorrowful course he is in danger of pursuing, which indeed we too often witness, can hardly be told by language. And even if he should make what is called a respectable man, he has acquired habits in his youthful period which, if he shall endeavor to correct, it will take years of maturity to wipe away.

There is one other point which may be deserving of notice. It is not an uncommon thing to hear a farmer telling, with great anticipation, what his sons are going to make. Now we would ask, what portion of our farmers ever realize their expectations from their children? We are constrained to believe that there are but few, and why it is so is no hard mystery to solve. It is almost a wonder that parents are not more frequently disappointed than they are. But most of the farming class are highly favored in this respect by their situation. Were there no more restraints from the paths of folly and vice thrown around the quiet home of the farmer than around a great share of the youth of our large villages and cities, and those living upon canals, his humble dwelling would much oftener afford the tale of wo to be rehearsed by thousands, and which would destroy the peace and happiness of parents, and bring down the gray hairs of the father with sorrow to the grave.

It may not be amiss likewise to notice here that frequent objection, that when a man is settled on a farm, he has no more time to attend to the interests of the mind. He must have nothing to trouble him but laying up property. The intellectual man must receive no more nourishment,—feed and take care of the body well, and keep an abundance laid up in store. But by whom is this objection made? It most always comes from those who have a manifest disinclination ever to touch a book. Of all men, the farmer certainly has the most complete command of his time—he is the most independent. He goes at no one's bidding. His leisure the year round is completely at his disposal; and were all his waste hours employed in reading, at the years end he would find no small progress in intellectual improvement. The farmer's occupation is well calculated to give a respectable portion of time which may be allotted to the cultivation of the mind, without being detrimental to his other interests. It is not to be expected that through the busy season of the year he can be quite as much at liberty as he will be after the fall work is done. But then comes his leisure time, and during four months of the less hurrying part of the year, he may work from sunrise to sunset if he choose, and then have, upon an average, *three hours a day*, to be devoted to the improvement of the mind. And he can take his rest in due season, undisturbed by the exciting questions which harrass the lawyer, or the fears of success which haunt the physician.

I have thus offered a few thoughts upon this subject, in a very superficial manner. It is hope

that henceforth it will not be entirely overlooked by the correspondents for the Farmer. It most deservedly claims a share of our attention, sustaining as it does a vital connection with the prosperity and respectability of the business of husbandry universally. And should we now and then be favored with a little instruction or advice respecting it, I do not think we should be the losers by it. It is practical education the farmer wants, and that the farming community must have, or the business never will rise in importance. x.

Culture of Bees—Inquiries.

BY A FARMER.

Mr. Tucker—Having lately commenced the culture of bees, and not having had much experience in the business, I wish to propose a few questions, hoping that either yourself or some of your correspondents, will favor me with an answer through the columns of your truly valuable journal. They are briefly these:

Is it invariably the case that bees will not swarm while they have sufficient room to construct new combs? Will they increase as fast when kept in large communities and prevented from swarming, (if that can be done,) as when kept in the ordinary way? Will such a community make more honey than they require for their own sustenance? At what time in the fall does the weight of hives begin to diminish? How early in the spring can bees collect enough honey for their support?—and finally, how much honey does it require to winter a good swarm of bees? A Farmer.

Parma, Oct. 10, 1836.

The Rose.

A beautiful variety of the single rose in a state of nature, plucked from a hedge in one of our meadows, a small and insignificant creeper, has been transplanted and cultivated at the front of my house; it grew slowly for some time, but has in the last two years arrived, by training, at the eaves—the vine or bush not less than 20 feet in length, and more than the thickness of a man's finger, throwing out branches from 10 to 15 inches long nearly its whole length, the longest near the middle; every one of the lower branches, and to the height of about 5 feet, containing a cluster of 14 roses—from thence upwards they gradually increased to the number of 26 in a cluster, or spike. The present year the clusters are a little larger, and something more various in number. I consider it highly ornamental, and a variety I have not heretofore seen. It is now spreading luxuriantly, and appears capable of very extensive training; and as if to prolong the beauties of spring, it is now, (25th June,) just beginning to flower, when the beauty of all other varieties with us is on the decline, most of them entirely faded and fallen. w.

Flushing, Ohio.

Vermont Bee Hive.

This hive was invented and patented by John M. Weeks of Salisbury, Vt. We think it an improvement worthy of the attention of all bee owners. From the acquaintance we have with Mr. Weeks we think he is master of his business—he is a close observer, and has given much attention to the management of bees. On his plan, the surplus pure honey, without bread, may be taken from the bees, as fast as they fill up, without danger from stings, or depriving them of any part of their winter stores, or disturbing the main colony in the operation. Bees may also be tranferred from one hive to another.

Mr. W. makes his colonies as near equal in numbers and strength as possible, by uniting two or more small swarms, which prevents their robbing each other, and divides those which are too large to suit his own convenience, thus multiplies his colonies to any desirable extent without their swarming. He compels any stock he chooses to supply their Apiaries with extra queens, by which any colony which have lost their queens by accident or otherwise, can be replenished or supplied with a sovereign at any time during the breeding season. Mr. W. tells us that the success of the cultivation of bees depends principally on the management of the queens, and preventing their destruction by the moth, and has published a book which is designed as an accompaniament to the hive. The book is a concise work, and yet Mr. W. says "contains all that is necessary to make a skilful Apiarian." It is entitled "A Manual, or an easy Method of Managing Bees, with infallible Rules to prevent their destruction by the Moth." It contains 13 plain, concise and easy rules by which the bees may be managed in every manner their nature will admit of, and at the same time make them the most profitable to their owner.

Mr. W. tells us, that from six years' experience in the use of the Vermont Hive, his stock hives have paid him the interest of from $150 to $500 each hive in a season. We commend Mr. W.'s hive and manual to the examination of the public.—*Vermont Argus.*

Marl,

Is a compound calcareous earth found in most parts of the world, and has been extensively used throughout this kingdom, where it is supposed to have been known to husbandmen at a very early period of our history. There are, indeed, leases on record, granted in the reigns of Edward I. and II., which compel the tenants to make use of it; but, though still employed, it has been in a great degree superseded by the more recent introduction of lime, of the properties of which it in some measure partakes. The term denoting it was formerly used in a very vague sense, for it is a substance consisting of various materials, and it has consequently happened, that what has been supposed to apply to one species, did not hold good when affirmed of another. Although principally deemed valuable on account of the calcareous matter which it usually contains, still its composition differs so essentially, that its influence as manure is but imperfectly understood; yet theoretic writings abound in general directions for its use, which are frequently found not to answer in practice, for their rules are drawn either from statements which have been made of the effect of its application on particular soils, or from analyses of its qualities, which, as these vary in ianumerable instances, frequently lead farmers astray. Its real value can, therefore, be only ascertained through the practical experience of those who have either actually tried its efficacy, or who have witnessed it in their own neighborhood.

The ignorance of the distinguishing properties of marl has necessarily led to many mistakes in its application, which have occasioned the variety of opinions that are entertained regarding its use. In most places where it was anciently employed, and where its fertilizing influence was discovered to be eminently great, it was thought by many farmers that it could be made to supersede the use of dung; they therefore, in many instances, sold their hay and straw, and although notwithstanding this reduction of the quantity of putrescent manure, they still for a time obtained large crops, yet, eventually, the chemical effects of the marl exhausted the land. No second marling could operate upon it, until it had been renovated by repeated applications of dung; and thus has arisen the old saying, cited by Barnaby Googe, who wrote so long ago as the middle of the sixteenth century, that "*lime and marl are good for the father, but bad for the son*" In this manner, also, some valuable discoveries in agriculture have fallen into disuse through their mistaken application, when governed by local circumstances which were ill understood; wherever marl of a kind adapted to the soil has been applied, and that a judicial system of culture has been pursued, without either over-cropping, or neglecting the use of putrescent manure, the proverb is so far from being well founded, that the contrary may be safely affirmed.

The common *definition of marl*, given us by the best writers on fossils, is—that it is composed of clay, sand, and lime, very intimately, but unequally mixed, slightly coherent, not ductile, but stiff, or viscid, when moist; most easily diffusible in, and disunited by, water, or even by exposure to the air, and by it reduced to a soft, loose, incohesive mass—for the most part composed of nothing more than calcareous earth—in which its chief value consists—combined with a little mineral oil, clay, and sometimes with ochre, or iron. It is also generally considered as a characteristic of marl, that it effervesces with acids, though to that various exceptions have been discovered; from which it has been supposed that, when deprived of that test, it contains no calcareous matter, yet it is found to produce ameliorating effects upon the soil. Notwithstanding this summary description, its appearance is, however, as varied as its properties, being of color nearly pure white, to the darkest shades of brown and red, interveined with blue and yellow. It also exists in different kinds of land, is seldom found as a stratum of much length, but generally in detached masses at various depths, sometimes in wide and dense perpendicular layers, at others in streaks, running in lines parallel with the horizon, or again intersecting each other at right angles, usually resting on sand or gravel, and is classed, according to its qualities, into the following distinct species:

1. *Clayey marl*, which improves sandy land, and seems to act as clay in changing the nature of the soil. In land consisting of a mixture of sand and loam, or of sand and gravel, then the application of this marl has been found peculiarly advantageous, and on all poor and thin sandy soil there is this further advantage in its use—that, from the large proportion of clay which it usually contains, it adds to their bulk and firmness, and thus has a tendency to bring them to that medium state which is the most favorable to the purposes of vegetation. It is more soft and unctuous than clay; indeed, upon slightly cutting it, it becomes so flexible, that it may be kneaded like dough, or paste, though, when the moisture evaporates, it falls into pieces: it therefore blends easily with the soil, and partaking more largely of calcareous matter, it effects, though slow, are in all the latter cases more fertilizing.

2. *Sandy marl*, which is far more frequent in Ireland than in any part of England, and is commonly found in pits of limestone gravel, whence it is in that country commonly called limestone sand. It is seldom clammy or unctuous, like the clay marl, nor does it adhere to the tongue, but crumbles between the fingers, and feels gritty; when exposed to the air and moisture it slowly chips and molders; and it partakes of some extraneous mixtures. Its color is sometimes like that of lead, or brown, approaching to black, and at others blue. As implied by its name, it contains an excess of sand over that of clay; for, upon analyzing it, the proportion of the former has, in most cases, been found to be from 60 to 80 per cent.; and it does not effervesce with acids so quickly as the argillaceous marls. It possesses but a small degree of tenacity, and it has proved an excellent manure for clayey soils, mellowing their stiffness, and rendering them easier to work.

3. *Slaty or stony marl*, to which class, also, properly belongs that which is called *rotten limestone*, is chiefly applied to heavy land. Its operation is slow, but very lasting; land, forty years after it has been laid on, having been found to bear a

closer and a better crop of grass than that which had been recently applied.

4. *Shelly marl*, which is evidently produced by the remains of testaceous fish, which, dying in their shells, become, in process of time, converted into calcareous earth, and their bodies, when decomposed, furnish a kind of mold composed of animal substance, which is no doubt analogous to the effect of dung. It is, therefore, highly fertilizing when judiciously applied to soils of every kind, which are either in themselves dry, or which have been properly drained.

Such are the most common denominations by which marl is usually distinguished, though it is susceptible of many subdivisions by those who affect to treat the subject scientifically. It is, however, more frequently classed under the sole characters of *silicious*, *argilaceous*, or *calcareous*, according as sand, clay, or lime predominates in its composition; but, for all practical purposes, it may be sufficient to divide it into *earth-marl* and *shell-marl*.—*Library of Useful Knowledge, Farmer's Series.*

Gathering and Preserving Fruit.

Great quantities of winter fruit are raised in the vicinity of Boston, and put up for winter use, for the market and for exportation. The following is the mode almost universally adopted by the most experienced. And by this mode the apples under favorable circumstances are frequently preserved in a sound state, or not one in fifty defective, for a period of seven or eight months. The fruit is suffered to hang on the tree to as late a period as possible in October, or till hard frosts have loosened the stalks, and they are in danger of being blown down by high winds; such as have already fallen are carefully gathered and inspected, and the best are put up for winter use. They are carefully gathered from the tree by hand, and as carefully put into baskets. New, light, well seasoned flower barrels from the bakaries are usually preferred; the barrels being quite filled are gently shaken, and the head is pressed down to its place and secured. It is observed that this pressure never causes them to rot next the hand, and is necessary, as they are never allowed to rattle in moving. No soft straw or shavings are admitted at the ends, it causes mustiness and decay. They are next carefully placed in wagons and removed on the bilge, and laid in courses in a cool airy situation, on the north side of a building, near the cellar, protected by a covering on the top of boards, so placed as to defend them from the sun and rain, while the air is not excluded at the sides. A chill does not injure them; it is of no disservice, but when extreme cold weather comes on, and they are in imminent danger of being frozen, whether by night or by day, they are carefully rolled into a cool airy dry cellar, with an opening on the north side that the cold air may have free access—they are laid in tiers, and the cellar is in due time closed and rendered secure from frost. The barrels are never tumbled or placed on the head. Apples keep best when grown in dry seasons, and on dry soils. If fruit is gathered late, and according to the above directions, repacking is unnecessary; it is even ruinous, and should on no account be practiced till the barrel is opened for use. It has been fully tried.—*Horticultural Register.*

Hamilton County Agricultural Society.

The Annual Fair of the Hamilton County Agricultural Society, was held at Carthage on the 29th and 30th of September. But owing to the change of time from the 4th and 5th of the present month, as had been previously advertised, several owners of stock, calculating on the succeeding week, were of course disappointed in getting stock to the ground, and others in preparing their articles for exhibition, consequently the fair was neither as interesting or as well attended as usual; but if the stock was less numerous than was expected, we had the gratification to observe that in quality they far exceeded those of any former exhibition, and to notice among them several of the superior animals imported by the Ross County Association, and the late purchases of Major C. S. Clarkson of this county. The mechanics of Cincinnati, also done themselves great credit by making a fine display of articles of unsurpassable workmanship. We will not however particularize at present, as we expect to receive the reports of the several Secretaries for our next number. We notice with much pleasure the attendance of three such persons as George Renich, Esq., Gen. Vance and Lewis Sanders, Esq., these gentlemen are honorary members of the Society.—*Farmer & Mechanic.*

To Cure the Big Head in Horses.—Take one quart of hog's lard, one quart of tar, and one pound of sulphur of brimstone; put all together in a pot over a slow fire, and boil it till the brimstone disappears; then make a mop on a strong stick, and rub the horse's head from the eyes to the nostrils once a day until the mixture is all gone, and it will make a cure. I have tried one horse and did cure him sound and well. If you think the receipt worthy your attention, you can put it in your Register, with my name.

HICHARD B. HARRISON.

Dallas co., Alabama, April 19, 1836.

To Stock Breeders.

THE subscriber informs the patrons of stock breeding that he will exhibit his South Down Sheep at the Clinton House in Rochester, on Thursday the 27th inst. All who feel interested in the improvement of stock are respectfully invited to call and examine the same, and some of the said Sheep which are not yet sold will be offered for sale.

JAMES PARSONS.

Riga, Oct. 14, 1836. oct 22–f1t*

Sheep.

SAXONY and MERINO BUCKS for sale. Inquire at the City Mills, or at Brighton of Porter Taylor.

Rochester, Oct. 10, 1836. oct 15–f3t

25,000 Mulberry Trees.

WE have 25,000 White Italian Mulberry Trees 3 years old, which we will sell at $25 per 1000, or $3 per 100. If 5000 or upwards are taken, a deduction will be made.

REYNOLDS & BATEHAM,

sept 3 Rochester Seed Store.

20,000 GENUINE Morus multicaulis, or Chinese Mulberrry, of one and two years' growth, by the dozen, hundred or thousand.

Also—30,000 White Mulberry, of one and two years' growth—for sale by ASA ROWE.

Garden Seeds, Trees, &c.

WM. PRINCE & SONS, Proprietors of the Linnæan Garden and Nurseries, near New York, offer to the public the most extensive collection of Garden, Agricultural and Flower Seeds to be found in the Union.

They will supply venders on the most favorable terms, both as to prices and credit, and they will also enter into such engagements relative to Agencies for the sale of their Tress, Plants, Bulbous Roots, &c., as cannot fail to be highly advantageous to their correspondents. The Seeds will be supplied by the pound and bushel at low prices, or they will be furnished to any extent, put up in small papers and labelled ready for retailing, on which a large discount will be allowed. Specimen beds of the different seeds are growing for inspection, whereby their excellence and accuracy are proved. 3000 lbs. Red, Yellow, White, Silver Skinned, and Madeira Onion seed just ready for delivery. 100,000 Chinese Morus Multicaulis at $25 to $30 per hundred. 15,000 Broad-leaved Florence Mulberry at $12 to $15 per hundred, and also above 100,000 White Italian do., at $30 to $80 per thousand according to size. Fruit and Ornamental Trees of every description, Flowering Shrubs, Bulbous Flowering Roots, splendid Double Dahlias, Green House Plants, &c., priced Catalogues of which will be sent per mail to every applicant. The proprietors of Nurseries, and those who wish to establish new Nurseries will be dealt with at a liberal discount.

N. B.—1500 lbs. Finest Early York, Drumhead, savoy, and other Cabbages, (new crop) just received.

Flushing, October 8th, 1836. 3t

Sale of Sheep.

THE subscriber hereby informs the public that his annual sale of BUCKS will commence on the 25th day of Oct. inst. and after continued, at his residence, half way between Mount Morris and Danville.

His flock of Sheep, for purity of blood and quality of wool, has now become so generally known to the principal breeders of sheep in this part of the country, as to preclude the necessity of description and recommendation. They consist of pure blood

Saxony and genuine Merino.

The clip of his entire flock the two preceding shearings, sold for 70 cents per lb. He confidently tenders the assurance of a choice of Bucks, equaling any preceding offer or selection. In addition to which he will offer for sale, in lots to accommodate purchasers, the surplus of his flock, over his estimate of his fodder for the ensuing winter, consisting of Ewes and Lambs to the amount of 200.

FRANCIS MOORE.

Sparta, October 5, 1836.

Chinese Mulberry Trees and Cuttings.

THE best varieties of CHINESE MULBERRY, (Morus Multicaulis) from *France*, *Italy* and *China*, of *one*, *two* and *three* years' growth, may be had in large or small quantities, from S. WHITMARSH's extensive collection, and forwarded to any part of the United States, according to order, with directions for propagation.

It is confidently believed, that the present mode of culture adopted by us, will prove a certain and secure protection against the severity of winter, and the best method, by which, to increase the foilage and multiply the number of trees.

All orders directed to the subscriber, will receive immediate and faithful attention.

In behalf of S. WHITMARSH,

DANIEL STEBBINS.

Northampton Sept. 7. sept17-7t*

Monroe Horticultural Garden and Nurseries, GREECE, MONROE CO. N. Y.

THIS establishment now comprises over 20 acres, covered compactly with Trees and Plants in the different stages of their growth.

The subscriber offers to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French, German, English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Grape Vines, Strawberries, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses, Vines, Creepers, Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Bulbous Roots, splendid Pæonies, Double Dahlias, &c. &c.

Also, a large collection of Green House Plants, of choice and select varieties, in good condition.

Orders respectfully solicited. Trees and Plants, when ordered, are carefully selected and faithfully packed, and if desired delivered on the canal one mile from the Nursery, or at Rochester.

Orders for Mr. Rowe's Nursery received by the publisher of this paper.

Catalogues will be sent to every applicant gratis, or may be had by calling at the office of the Genesee Farmer. ASA ROWE.

oct 1

ELECTION NOTICE.—*Sheriff's Office, Monroe County, Rochester, July* 23, 1836.—A general election is to be held in the county of Monroe, on the 7th, 8th and 9th days of November next, at which will be chosen the officers mentioned in the notice from the Secretary of State, of which a copy is annexed. ELIAS POND, Sheriff.

State of New-York, Secretary's Office, Albany, July 15, 1836.

Sir—I hereby give you notice that at the next general election of this state, to be held on the 7th 8th and 9th days of November next, a Governor and Lieutenant Governor are to be elected.

I also give you notice that a Senator is to be chosen in the Eighth Senate District in the place of John Griffin, whose term of office will expire on the last day of December next.

JOHN A. DIX, Secretary of State.

To the Sheriff of the county of Monroe.

N. B.—The Inspectors of Election in the several towns in your county will give notice of the election of a Representative to Congress from the 28th Congressional District, and that 42 Electors of President and Vice President are also to be chosen at the general election aforesaid. They will also give notice of the election of Members of Assembly, and for filling any vacancies in county offices which may exist. july26

The Osage Orange.

We subjoin from the American Gardener's Magazine a communication of great interest on the use of the Osage Orange (Maclura aurantiaca) as food for silk worms. It is from the pen of one of the most distinguished agriculturists of Virginia, whose able communications, connected with the pursuits of husbandry, and of horticulture, have often adorned the various journals of our country devoted to these pursuits. His suggestions with regard to the culture of this valuable plant and its adaptation to live fences are peculiarly interesting, and should elicit every attention.—*Balt. Far.*

On the use of the Osage Orange (Maclura aurantiaca,) as food for Silk Worms.—By T. S. P., Beaver-dam, Va.

Some months ago, the Farmers' Register contained a translation of an interesting article by M. Bonafons, giving the result of an experiment on feeding the silk-worm on the leaves of the Maclura. Although the authority of that gentleman may be regarded as decisive on any matter connected with the culture of silk, yet, as many of the subatitutes for the mulberry have been successively used and discarded, it was reasonable to suppose the Maclura might share the same fate. On trial, however, I find it to answer all the purposes for which M. Bonafons recommended it; and as the silk business is becoming an important branch of the business of the United States, I am induced to detail, in corroboration thereof the result of my own experiment.

In the month of May I had a few thousand eggs to hatch, and, during the three first ages, the worms were fed exclusively on the leaves of the Maclura. At the commencement of the 4th age they were divided into several parcels, with a view of giving to each a separate kind of food. About one third were continued on the same—the native mulberry was given to an equal number—a portion of the balance was fed on the Maclura and Chinese mulberry indiscriminately—and the remainder on the Chinese mulberry alone. During the process, I could not perceive that the worms manifested any partiality between the leaves of the Maclura and those of the Chinese mulberry,—if they evinced any, it was certainly not in favor of the latter. But they greatly preferred *either* to the leaves of the red mulberry, some of which I would occasionaly lay on the shelves, where they would suffer them to remain until compelled by hunger to eat them. On the contrary, when those which had the red mulberry leaves assigned them, were furnished with a few of the Maclura, they would collect around the latter, and devour them with avidity, before they would begin to feed on their accustomed diet.

The relative value, however, of the Maclura and Chinese mulberry, for the production of silk, was only to be fully determined after the formation of the cocoons. It may be recollected by those who read the article of Mr. Bonafons, that he regarded the Maclura as chiefly valuable for feeding the worms during their early ages; that subsequently they should be supplied with the mulberry, their natural food; and that, though the former would produce silk of a fair quality, yet it would be inferior, and in diminished quantity, compared with the product of the mulberry. I find this to be true as it regards the Maclura and *Chinese* mulberry—so far, at least, as respects the size of the cocoon; but the Maclura is at least of equal value with the red or native mulberry. The worms fed on the Chinese mulberry spun cocoons weighing from 30 to 45 grains;—those raised on the Maclura and Chinese mulberry combined made their balls somewhat lighter on the average,—while the weight of those obtained from the Maclura and red mulberry respectively was about equal, and still less than either of the preceding. The quality of the thread for manufacturing purposes I am unable to pronounce upon, not having yet submitted specimens to a competent judge. The cocoons were nearly all of a pale straw color.

If the value of the Maclura consisted in furnishing food for the silk-worm, it might, from its extreme hardiness, and consequent exemption from late spring frosts, be deemed well worthy of planting; but when to this, other important uses to which it may be applied are superadded, it appears to present irresistible claims to the notice of the farmer and horticulturist. I may therefore be excused for dwelling more at large on its merits, which have as yet scarcely began to be appreciated or even known.

In many parts of the United States, the scarcity of timber has for many years been sensibly felt; notwithstanding which, our forests still continue to disappear. To mitigate the evils of this alarming destruction, efforts have frequently been made to substitute live for dead fences; but it is believed that hedges have not, to any considerale extent, answered the purposes of an enclosure. After all the trouble and expense that have been bestowed upon them, they have, in most instances, finally dwindled away and been rooted out. Hence it may be inferred, that the plants used in their construction have been too feeble in their constitution, and therefore incapable of attaining the necessary size and development. Now it has been confidently asserted, that the Maclura will make a most substantial and impervious hedge—a fact which cannot well be doubted by any person who will take the trouble to examine the manner of its growth. The branches are thickly set, and the lateral ones almost uniformly take a horizontal direction: they are moreover armed with a number of sharp and very rigid spines, which do not disappear, as has been stated, after 1 or 2 years, but remain permanently. The plants grow with such vigor, that it would only require a few years, under careful treatment, to rear an excellent hedge from the seed. To those who are fond of the ornamental it may be also recommended for the extreme luster of its foliage and the magnificence of its fruit.

Hitherto the means of propagating the Maclura have been rather limited. It grows but indifferently from cuttings, and not with certainty from slips of the roots. The only mode which can be depended on for extensive increase, is by the seed. These have not often been perfected on this side of the Mississippi, owing partly to the small number of trees which gentlemen have introduced into their grounds: and also to inattention to the fact that they are dicœcious. With a knowledge of this characteristic, there is no difficulty in having them to bear abundantly. There is one growing in my garden, now 7 or 8 years old, which has matured its fruit for a year or two past, and which would have borne considerably earlier, had not the staminate plant perished which was ordered with it. The one which was subsequently obtained was feeble in its growth, and slow in flowering. Last year the number of seeds it ripened amounted to many thousands. These readily vegetated in the spring, and the seedling are now growing in nursery rows, as finely as could be desired.

I regret that I have not been able to compress my remarks into a smaller space; but before concluding, I will take the liberty to suggest, to some of our enterprising seedsmen, the propriety of obtaining a parcel of the seed of the Maclura from its native forests. They may be gathered in any quantity on the Red River, and in the contiguous parts of Arkansas. It is the practice now to compass sea and land to discover a new vegetable for our tables, or a flower for the parterre; and while the seeds of these productions meet with a ready sale, in consequence of the increased taste for horticultural pursuits, it is not to be doubted that a considerable demand will also be found for those of a plant, which combines, in an eminent degree, the useful with the ornamental. Yours, T. S. P.

Beaverdam, 7th mo. 1836.

A Request to Editors.

All editors of newspapers and other public Journals throughout the United States are requested to mention 'that the Pennsylvania Lyceum is prepared to deliver *gratuitously*, an elementary set of specimens in Geology and Mineralogy, to any and every County Lyceum, which is or may be formed in the Union.

If any such Lyceum or a few individuals, with a view of forming one in any one of the eleven hundred counties in the United States, will request some merchant or other person who may visit Philadelphia the present season, to call upon John Simmons, corresponding Secretary of the Pennsylvania Lyceum, or upon Dillwyn Parish, corner of Arch and Eighth streets, they can procure a set of specimens, representing the elements of rocks and mountains, the different strata or kinds of rocks, the ores of the most useful metals and a few other minerals, a few specimens of improvements in schools and Lyceums, such as geometrical, and perhaps architectural and other prospective drawings, foliums, impressions of leaves, and possibly a few specimens of needle work.

Editors of this and other countries, are also requested to mention in their columns, that the next national Convention of American Lyceums, will be held in Philadelphia, commencing on the first Tuesday of May next, and that any person or persons from either continent, who may bring or send to that meeting specimens of plants, minerals, shells, insects or other productions of nature or art, may exchange them for others, deposit them for the use of the National Cabinet, or appropriate them in some way for the diffusion of knowledge, and for instituting a scientific, and, it is hoped, a Christian intercourse among the nations of the earth.

It is expected that the delegates from State and County Lyceums in America, and from similar societies in other countries, will be provided with accommodations by the hospitality of citizens.

New England Farmer.

The New England Farmer and the seed Establishment connected with it have passed into the hands of Messrs. Joseph Breck & Co., under whose superintendence the several departments of the concern will, we doubt not, continue to deserve extensive patronage. Under this arrangement the Farmer will be continued and improved; the Horticultural Register, devoted principally to the cultivation of fruits and flowers, will receive the advantage of the senior partner's well known experience in these departments—and the seed establishment will be enlarged. We strongly recommend this old pioneer establishment, to which new England owes so much, to the attention of our readers.

The constant advance in price of all agricultural products, from one year to another, seems to speak, in a voice not to be unheeded, that a greater interest must be exerted in the farming business. Some means must be devised to increase the amount of our products, either by an accession of numbers to the farming class, or by an improved husbandry—or both combined. There is no doubt but that, by adequate labor, triple and quadruple the quantity of produce now raised, could be obtained from the same land. The products of our farms are very much in proportion to the labor bestowed upon them, and the degree of knowledge by which it is executed. But how many pursue a course in direct opposition to these facts! They seem to think that their income is graduated to the number of acres in their farms, and instead of expending a portion of it to improve the land they have, which is already more than they can cultivate with profit, they are eager to spend it for still greater additions. The result of this management is, they run over more land than they have labor to cultivate and in harvest are rewarded, perhaps, with one third the amount of produce which could be obtained on one third the number of acres with less labor.

It should be the ambition of the farmer to increase the productiveness of what land he already has, rather than to enlarge its extent; by this course he will receive a double compensation, in the enhanced value of his land, and in the increased products of the same. Doubtless, for a series of years, fifty bushels of Corn can be raised with less labor on one acre than on three. Is it not so, Farmers?—*Vermont Farmer.*